BTEC Assignment Brief

Qualification	Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Certificate in Land-based Studies Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Land-based Studies Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Agriculture Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Diploma in Agriculture Pearson BTEC International Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture
Unit number and title	Unit 17: Crop Production
Learning aim(s)	**A** Understand crop species and their products
Assignment title	**What, where and why? Understanding cropping decisions**
Assessor	
Issue date	
Hand in deadline	

Vocational Scenario or Context	Crop production underpins all aspects of agriculture, but not all crops can be grown in all areas of the country. Although a crop *can* be grown in a particular location, it does not always mean it is a good idea to grow it there. This may be because of constraints of market and /or infrastructure. An international client has expressed an interest in buying into a number of crop production operations in your region of the country. You work for a large estate management company as a trainee land agent. It is your role to ensure that this client is provided with the right advice to enable them to make sound agricultural investment decisions that will be appropriate to your region and, in particular, your local area. Although the client has significant wholesale business experience in crop product distribution, they have only very limited knowledge of commercial crop production in this country. In order for their investment to be productive and profitable it is vital that you support your client's understanding of what can be grown, where in the country it is best to be grown, and the products and markets that are supported by this activity. Having this information will enable your client to make sound investment opportunities in regional and local crop production operations. In this assignment you will examine the range of commercially grown crops species and their products, and making valid judgements, and providing specific details, as to why particular crop species are grown in some locations, but not in others.

	You will need to make use of appropriate and accurate agricultural terminology throughout your evidence, to demonstrate that you are an agricultural specialist.
Task 1	You must produce an illustrated report examining crop species, their products and where they are grown. In order for your report to be a useful, decision-making tool, it must be accompanied by a portfolio of evidence relating to the recognition of crop plants and their products. The portfolio evidence should include annotated photographs that draw on your own experience of crops production in your region and local area. **The Portfolio of Crops:** Your client needs to be able to identify a wide range of crop species and their associated products, and understand the life cycle of each crop species. The client will also need to know which crops will grow well in your region. • Use annotated photographs and illustrations to identify the crop and record as annual, biennial and perennial. • Identify and evaluate the location of crop production. You need to focus on the climatic, topographical and soil tolerance range for each commercially grown species. • Make sure that you cover at least **20** crop species across the following range: o cereals o oilseeds o forage crops o root crops o vegetable crops o top fruit o soft fruit o legumes and pulses o minor and specialist crops e.g. miscanthus • Where possible, use photographs of your own crop walks to illustrate your portfolio. **The Report on Crop Production:** In order for your client to find useful investment information from your research, your report must provide a convincing, in-depth evaluation that fully considers crop production. • Thoroughly consider key factors determining crop production options including yield and product quality. Include: o the selection of cultivars for specific end users, for example those for feed wheat versus milling wheat crop o crop rotations and any rotation restrictions o specific details of the use and / or the disposal of any by-products for each commercially produced crop

	o an evaluation of the crop production opportunities that are suitable for your region and for your particular locality. This should relate to end users and transport links. Show how access to markets influences the location of specific crops. • The final section of your report should make clear supported recommendations as to which crops, and where relevant which cultivars, the client should invest in.
Checklist of evidence required	• A portfolio of evidence, including annotated photographs, relating to the recognition of crops. • An Illustrated report examining crop species, their products and where they are grown.

Criteria covered by this task:	
Unit/Criteria reference	To achieve the criteria you must show that you are able to:
A.D1	Evaluate reasons for the production of specified crops in particular locations, and the effect on quality and yield.
A.M1	Assess the parameters that influence the production, quality and yield of crops.
A.P2	Explain the basic parameters that determine where crops are grown.
A.P1	Explain the identifying characteristics of annual, biennial and perennial crops and their products.

Sources of information to support you with this Assignment	**Websites** gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486326/structure-jun2015final-uk-17dec15.pdf lantra.co.uk cpm-magazine.co.uk fwi.co.uk/arable s-cool.co.uk/a-level/geography/agriculture/revise-it/factors-that-affect-the-distribution-of-agriculture **Books** Francis S. 2009. *British Field Crops: A pocket guide to the identification, History and Uses of Arable Crops in Great Britain*. ISBN 9780955046629 Finch, H. Samuel, A. Lane G. 2014. *Lockhart & Wiseman's Crop Husbandry including grassland*. Woodhead publishing, ISBN 9781782423713 Redman, G. (ed.) 2016 *John Nix Farm Management Pocketbook* (46th Edition) ISBN 9780957693937 Soffe, R.J. (ed.) (2003) *Primrose McConnell's The Agricultural Notebook* (20th Edition). Blackwell Science. ISBN 9780632058297